

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING

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BECKMAN GIVES SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING ACADEMIES
\$20 MILLION FOR NEW WEST COAST STUDY CENTER
AT SITE DONATED BY IRVINE COMPANY

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IRVINE, CALIFORNIA -- The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) and the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) today jointly announced that the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation will give the Academies \$20 million to establish a West Coast study center at Irvine, Calif.

The gift is the largest single contribution ever received by the Academies, according to NAS president Frank Press and NAE president Robert M. White.

The presidents of the Academies said that the center will be located on a seven-acre site donated by The Irvine Company. The property, fully improved and valued at \$6 million, is on a knoll bordering the Irvine campus of the University of California, overlooking a growing industrial, economic, research and development community.

The planned 50,000 square-foot Beckman Center will supplement current Academy facilities in Washington, D.C., and Woods Hole, Mass.

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The Center, to be named in honor of both Arnold and Mabel Beckman, will be completed by the spring of 1987. It will serve as the setting for national and international conferences, symposia, and other activities of the Academies, the National Research Council of the Academies, and their sister organization, the Institute of Medicine.

Dr. Arnold O. Beckman is the founder and chairman of the board of directors of Beckman Instruments, Inc., of Fullerton, Calif., a major manufacturer of scientific instrumentation and related technical products and a subsidiary of the SmithKline Beckman Corp.

Beckman began his career as a chemist, serving on the faculty of the California Institute of Technology before becoming a leading American entrepreneur.

A member of the NAE since 1967 and a resident of Corona Del Mar, Calif., Beckman said, "The gift to the Academies provides an opportunity for the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation to move toward the goal of using its assets to advance the frontiers of science and medicine. The establishment of a western headquarters for the Academies is a recognition of the growing importance of scientific research and technology in the West. A physical presence of the Academies near major western research institutions will facilitate communications and enhance the contributions of the West to the nation's overall objectives in science and engineering."

Richard G. Sim, president of the Irvine Industrial Research and Development Co., an operating division of The Irvine Company, noted that the gift of land for the center "reflects our company's commitment to the advancement of scientific and technological knowledge and its application for the good of society."

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The Irvine Company is principal developer of the master-planned city of Irvine and of several residential, industrial, and commercial communities on the 68,000-acre Irvine Company landholding in Orange County, Calif.

"That the Academies of Sciences and Engineering have elected to locate a major center here is a tribute to our state, to our county, to our academic institutions, and to the city of Irvine," said Sim. "But it is most of all an enduring tribute to the humanism of Dr. Beckman. It is his dream, and we're proud to have the opportunity to play a role in it."

The National Academy of Sciences was chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1863 as an official advisor to the federal government on science and technology matters. Under this initial charter, the National Research Council was established in 1916 to carry on the day-to-day work of the Academy. Creation of the National Academy of Engineering and the Institute of Medicine followed in 1964 and 1970, respectively.

Study projects undertaken by the Academy complex cover the full spectrum of policy and program issues in science, technology, and medicine. Approximately 8,000 volunteer scientists and engineers, serving as experts on about 1,000 individual committees, participate in these study projects each year.

In announcing the \$20 million gift, Press said the planned West Coast study center would "add immeasurably to the resources of the Academies by greatly improving access to Academy activities for the science, engineering, and medical communities in the western United States and for colleagues from Japan and other important U.S. trading partners bordering the Pacific."

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"A national institution must conduct its work on a truly national scale," White added. "It must draw its resources from all parts of our great country and assess the nation's problems in a context that visibly encompasses all of our regions, together with our neighbors on this continent and other nations across both the Atlantic and the Pacific."

Press and White noted that more members of the two Academies are from California than from any other state in the nation. The location in Irvine, they said, will allow greater participation of these members in the work of the Academies and the National Research Council and will put the center in close proximity to numerous leading U.S. scientific, engineering, and medical teaching and research facilities. Last year, the NAS, NAE, IOM, and the National Research Council sponsored more than 70 separate meetings at locations west of Denver, involving some 2,500 scientists, engineers, and other specialists.

According to the Academy presidents, the addition of the West Coast facilities will allow expansion of the scope of studies undertaken by the institution. The new facilities will provide "an outstanding center for the full range of National Research Council and Academy studies, symposia, and other activities to be supported by grants from government agencies, private foundations, corporations and individuals," said White.

With a projected budget of \$100 million in 1986, the programs of the Academies and the National Research Council will address national issues related to the physical and life sciences, engineering and technological systems, biomedical sciences, health services, behavioral and social issues; education; and international affairs.

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The Beckman gift is expected to be particularly useful in strengthening Academy programs on:

- o The health of science and technology in the United States, with particular emphasis on education and training of men and women for research and on the availability of the necessary tools, including advanced instrumentation;
- o Technology transfer, including transfer from research to commercialization, and global diffusion and use of advanced technologies;
- o International collaboration in science and technology; and
- o Ethical and social issues affecting development and application of science and technology and the practice of medicine.

The Beckman Foundation's \$20 million contribution includes \$9.3 million for construction costs, an endowment of \$8 million for sustaining a full-time staff for the center and for maintenance expenses, and \$2.7 million as an endowment for support of specific program activities. This, coupled with the Irvine Company gift, represents a \$26 million gift to the academies.

In addition, Press said both Academies are involved in major fund-raising drives to support an expansion of their activities that reflects the growing importance of science and technology in international and national affairs.

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